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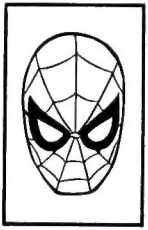
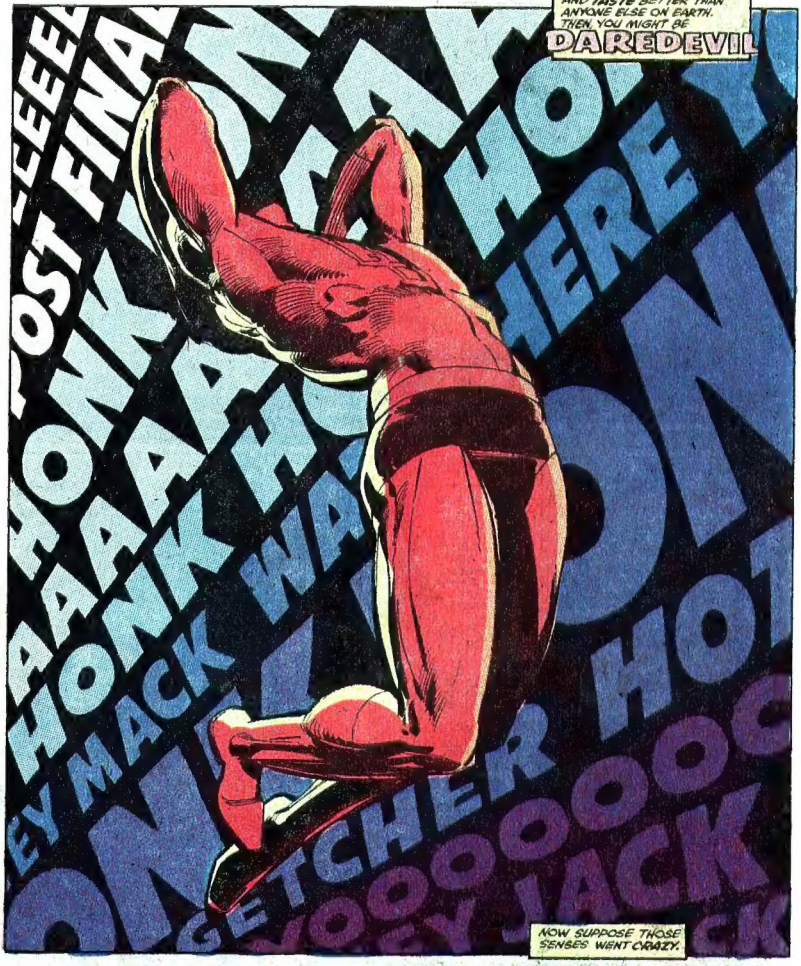
DAREDEVIL®

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!





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SO LOUD...

FALLING...
I'M FALLING!

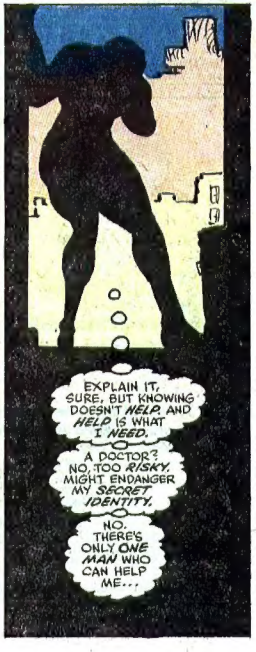
GET IT TOGETHER, MURDOCK--UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE A PAINTING ON THE SIDEWALK--
THAT CLOTHES-LINE!
AHHH...

...THOSE LIGHTNING REFLEXES SAVE ME EVERY TI...
UH OH.

I REALLY HOPE NOBODY'S WATCHING THIS...

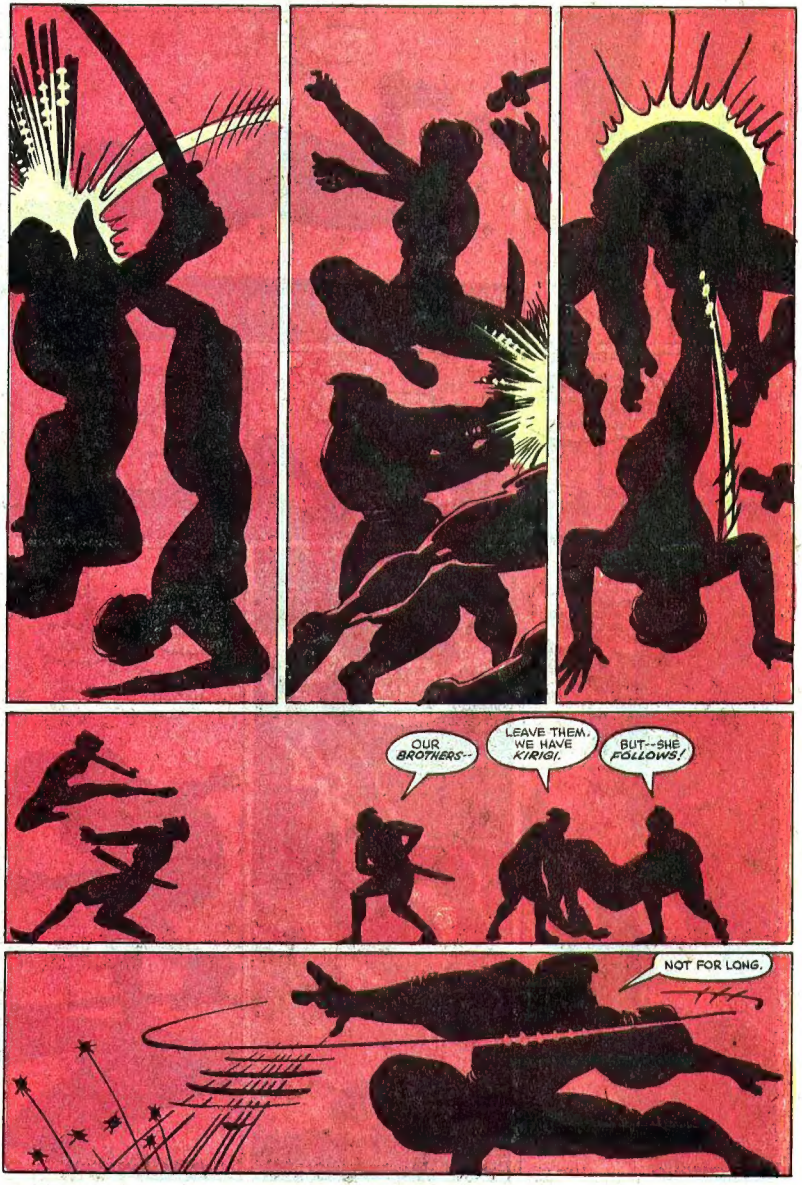
BETTER GET SERIOUS. I COULD'VE DIED UP THERE. HEARING WENT HAYWIRE--
--FOR THE THIRD TIME THIS WEEK.
AND HERE COMES THAT HEADACHE AGAIN...WORSE THIS TIME...

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
IS IT THAT RADIATION I ABSORBED A WEEK AGO?
MAYBE IT WAS THE SAME TYPE OF ISOTOPE THAT GAVE ME MY HYPERSENSES IN THE FIRST PLACE. THAT WOULD EXPLAIN IT.

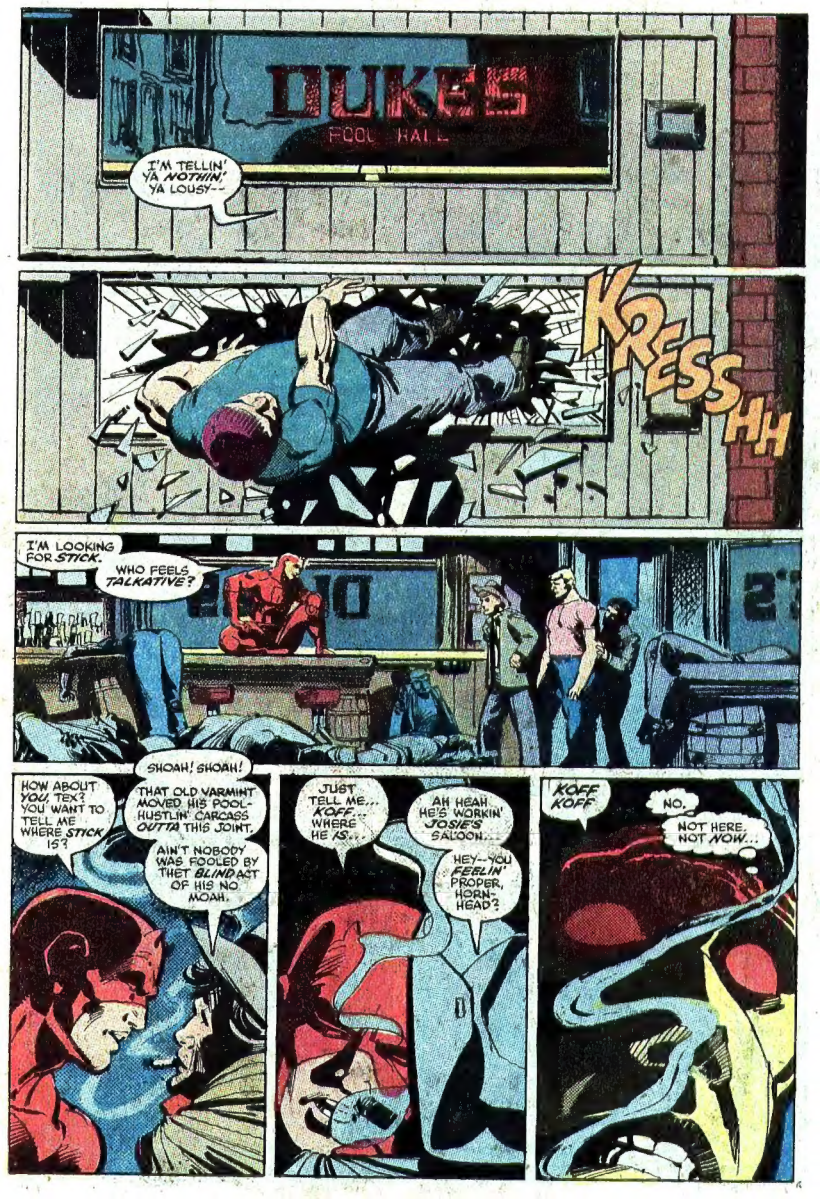

EXPLAIN IT, SURE, BUT KNOWING DOESN'T HELP, AND HELP IS WHAT I NEED.
A DOCTOR? NO, TOO RISKY. MIGHT ENDANGER MY SECRET IDENTITY.
NO. THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN HELP ME...

THAT IS HE.
GET HIM OUT. QUICKLY.
CITY MORGUE
ROOM 202
HE IS HEAVY, EVEN NOW. HE--
SILENCE! WE ARE OBSERVED.
THERE, ABOVE US. CLINGING TO THE WALL, LIKE SOME HUMAN SPIDER...
GOOD GUESS. BUT NOT JUST ANY SPIDER...
THUNK THUNK THUNK

...A BLACK WIDOW.
AND YOU GENTS ARE NINJA.
I'VE BEEN ON YOUR TRAIL EVER SINCE YOU LEFT SOUTH AMERICA.
OOF!
MY EMPLOYER--A CERTAIN UNITED NATIONS INTELLIGENCE AGENCY--IS DISTRESSED BY RECENT NINJA ACTIVITY IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES.
I'VE BEEN ASKED TO FIND YOU--AND FOLLOW YOU UNTIL YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE.
GUESS THIS IS IT.
STEALING CORPSES.
NASTY BUSINESS.


OUR BROTHERS--
LEAVE THEM. WE HAVE KIRIGI.
BUT--SHE FOLLOWS!
NOT FOR LONG.

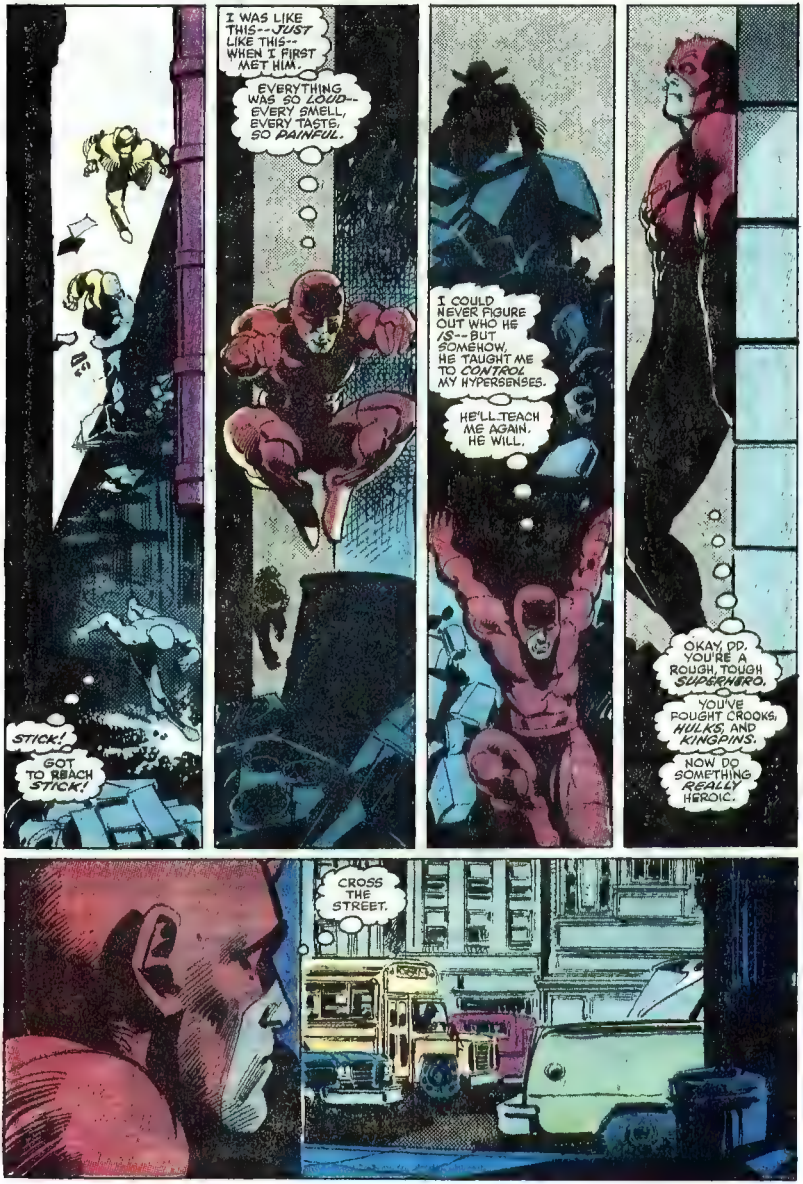
OWW!
OOF!
NICK, THIS IS NATASHA. I BLEW IT.
THE NINJA USED FOOT SPIKES ON ME-- GOT AWAY WITH A BODY FROM THE MORGUE.
A BODY?
WHY?
BEATS ME. BUT I'VE KNOCKED OUT THREE OF THEM, WHO COULD BE PERSUADED TO TALK--
SCRATCH THAT LAST REMARK, NICK.
THEY... THEY SEEM TO BE DISSOLVING.
ONE OTHER THING, NICK.
I THINK... I MAY HAVE BEEN... POISONED
NATASHA?
NATASHA?


DUKES
POOL HALL
I'M TELLIN' YA *NOTHIN'*, YA LOUSY--
KRESSHH
I'M LOOKING FOR *STICK*.
WHO FEELS *TALKATIVE*?
HOW ABOUT *YOU*, TEX? YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHERE *STICK* IS?
SHOAH! SHOAH!
THAT OLD VARMINT MOVED HIS POOL-HUSTLIN' CARCASS *OUTTA* THIS JOINT.
AIN'T NOBODY WAS FOOLED BY THET *BLIND* ACT OF HIS NO MOAH.
JUST TELL ME... *KOFF*... WHERE HE *IS*...
AH HEAH HE'S WORKIN' *JOSE'S* SALOON...
HEY--YOU *FEELIN'* PROPER, HORN-HEAD?
KOFF KOFF
NO.
NOT HERE, NOT *NOW*...

THAT SMOKE--
IT'S EVERYWHERE!
HE'S HURTIN', BOYS.
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
GOT TO FIGHT IT BACK!
LET'S HAVE US SOME FUN
WHOK
THIS HURTS ME... A LOT MORE THAN YOU, TEX...
HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!
WON'T GET FAR...

OUR BROTHERS SUCCEEDED. KIRIGI HAS BEEN FOUND.
THEN ONLY ONE TASK REMAINS.
TO ELIMINATE ...THAT ONE.
Josie's
YES. THE ONE CALLED STICK.
SILENTLY, NOW.
Josie's
THUNK
THUNK

WHUKK
WHUNNG


STICK!
GOT TO REACH STICK!
I WAS LIKE THIS--JUST LIKE THIS--WHEN I FIRST MET HIM.
EVERYTHING WAS SO LOUD--EVERY SMELL, EVERY TASTE, SO PAINFUL.
I COULD NEVER FIGURE OUT WHO HE IS--BUT SOMEHOW, HE TAUGHT ME TO CONTROL MY HYPERSENSES.
HE'LL TEACH ME AGAIN. HE WILL.
OKAY, DD. YOU'RE A ROUGH, TOUGH SUPERHERO.
YOU'VE FOUGHT CROOKS, HULKS, AND KINGPINS.
NOW DO SOMETHING REALLY HEROIC.
CROSS THE STREET.

ACHI
POKITA
VRMMMM
GOOD... GOOD... THEY'VE STOPPED.
LIGHT MUST BE RED.
VRMMMMMM
POKITAPOKITA
VRMM
JUST... HOPE I CAN GET ACROSS...
VRMMMM
VRMMM
POKITAPOKITAPO
VMMM
...BEFORE THE LIGHT...
APOKITA
...CHANGES...
HONK

HEY-- IZZAT DAREDEVIL?
NAH.
SOME KINDA' FAKE.
GUESS YER RIGHT.
OLD HORNHEAD, HE WOULDN'T HAVE NO PROBLEMS TAKIN' OUT A COUPLA' HOODS...
...LESSEN HE WAS SHOT ...OR SICK, OR SOMETHING...
LOOK, CABBIE, JUST DRIVE AROUND THEM, OKAY?
IT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM...
...AN' THIS IS FER BREAKIN' MY JAW LAST MONTH.
WHOK
...AN' THIS IS FER FOULIN' THAT BANK JOB TWO YEARS AGO.
AN' THIS...
UH, LOUIE...

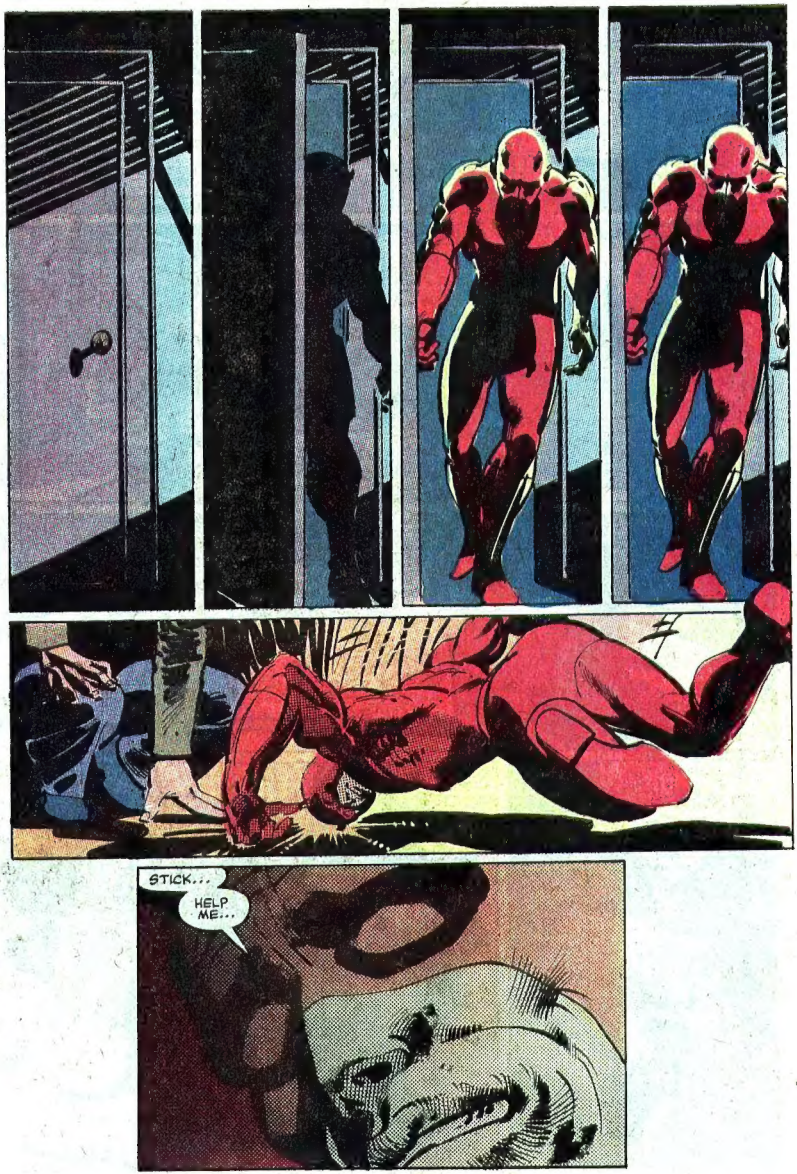
GOT 'IM, HORNHEAD!
NOW, YOU CAN...
KLNG
ULP!
YORE DEAD, AMIGO.
CHOK
THAT WAS BRAVE OF YOU, FRIEND. THANKS A LOT.
FORGET IT.
HEY-- YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT. ANYTHING I CAN DO?
ACTUALLY, I COULD USE A RIDE...
HEY-- CABBIE! LET'S MOVE IT, HUH?
I GOT APPOINTMENTS!
JUST HOP IN THE BACK, DD.

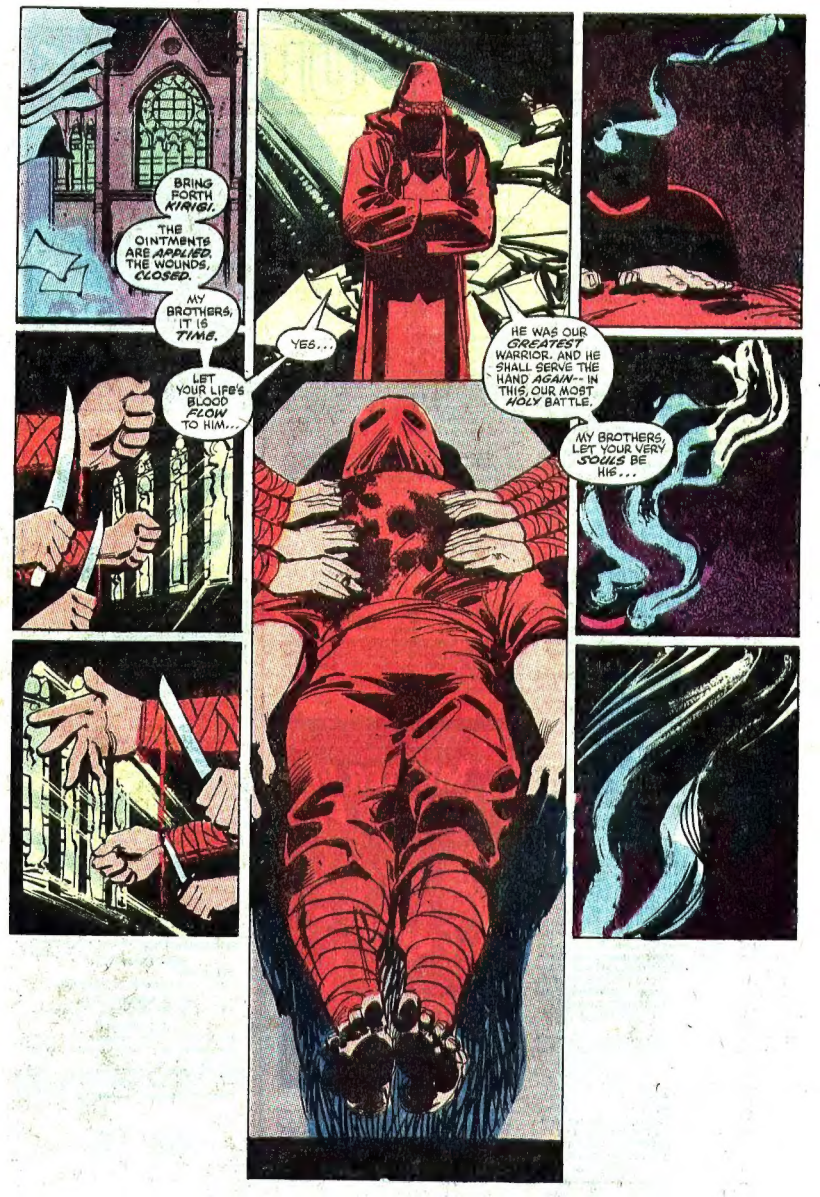
YOU'RE SURE OF THAT, DOC?
I'VE CHECKED AND DOUBLE-CHECKED, COLONEL.
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR DOUBT.
WHEN AGENT ROMANOVA STEPPED ON THOSE FOOT SPIKES, SOMETHING ENTERED HER SYSTEM--WHAT I'M NOT SURE--
--BUT IT ATTACKED HER CELLULAR STRUCTURE, GIVING HER WHAT I CAN ONLY CLASSIFY AS AN ADVANCED, ACCELERATED FORM OF CANCER.
SO WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THAT, DOC? SHE'S THE BEST AGENT I'VE GOT.
CRIMINY. SHE'S BEEN A SPY, AN AVENGER--EVEN HOOKED UP WITH DAREDEVIL FOR A WHILE...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, COLONEL.
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN--BUT I CAN'T SEE HER LASTING MORE THAN A WEEK, AT HER PRESENT RATE OF DETERIORATION.
LOOK, I'LL TELL HER, IF YOU LIKE...
NO. I'LL DO IT.
NATASHA.
LET'S TALK.

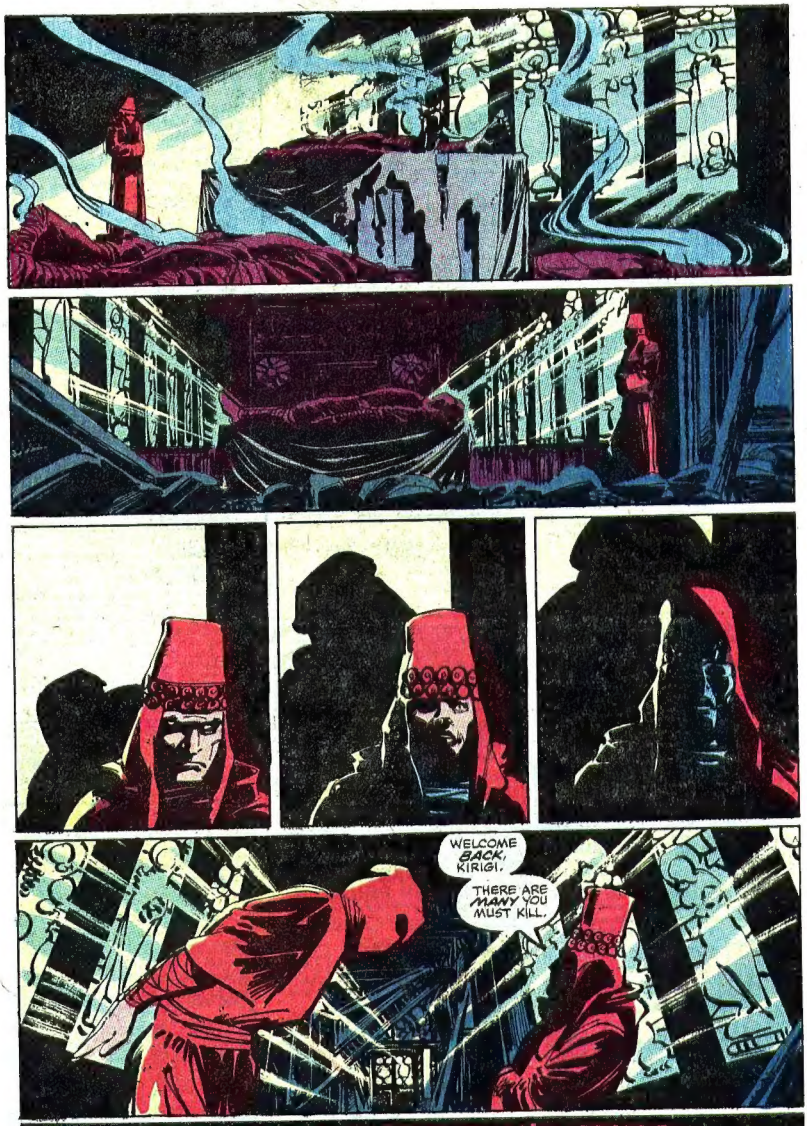
YOU WANNA GO IN THERE? LOOKS LIKE A PRETTY ROUGH JOINT.
I'LL BE OKAY. THANKS FOR THE RIDE.
WANT ME TO GO IN WITH YOU? WE MAKE A GREAT TEAM.
YOU'VE DONE PLENTY FRIEND. THANKS AGAIN.
Josie's
EASY ON THE FURNITURE THIS TIME, HUH, DAREDEVIL?
AND THE WINDOW... PLEASE...?
I MEAN, I'VE GONE THROUGH THREE THIS MONTH...
HI, PIKE.
DAREDEVIL?! AW, NO!
I NEVER SHOULDA' MOVED BACK FROM JERSEY...
FIRST, I GET STOOD UP BY THAT OLD WEEZIL STICK...
...NOW I GOTTA MESS WITH YOU...
STOOD... UP?
YEAH. THE BUM WAS SPOSED TA MEET ME FER POOL AN HOUR AGO.
NEVER SHOWED.

HAVE A NICE EVENING, JOSIE.
YEAH.
NICE
QUIET
EVENING
NO...
NO...
OOOOOH! HE'S SUFFERIN'!
...NO...
YEAH.
LET'S KILL HIM.
...AN' THIS IS FER PUTTIN' ME IN THE SLAMMER LAST MONTH...
KRESSHH

YOU CALLED. WE CAME.
BUT WHY MUST WE MEET HERE, STICK?
THIS PLACE BELONGS TO MATT MURDOCK--ALSO KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL--
--AND WE NEED HIS HELP.
WE NEED NO ONE. WE ARE--
WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
I CALLED A MEETING OF THE SEVEN. ONLY WE FOUR MADE IT HERE.
WE GOTTA FIGURE THE REST OF US ARE DEAD.
WHICH MEANS THE HAND IS FINALLY TRYING TO DESTROY US.
AGREED. RECENTLY, I WAS ATTACKED BY FOUR OF THEIR GEMIN.
SAME HERE.
BUT THIS DAREDEVIL. I HAVE STUDIED HIM--AND FOUND HIM ANGRY... UNDISCIPLINED...
YEAH, BUT HE'S SMART AND QUICK AND BRAVE.
HE IS NOT ONE OF US.
NO. HE AIN'T. BUT HE COULD BE--IN TIME.
TIME WE AIN'T GOT.
EH?
SOMEONE'S COMING.
IT'S HIM.
BUT--HE'S HURT--


STICK...
HELP ME...


BRING FORTH KIAVGI.
THE OINTMENTS ARE APPLIED, THE WOUNDS, CLOSED.
MY BROTHERS, IT IS TIME.
LET YOUR LIFE'S BLOOD FLOW TO HIM...
YES...
HE WAS OUR GREATEST WARRIOR. AND HE SHALL SERVE THE HAND AGAIN-- IN THIS, OUR MOST HOLY BATTLE.
MY BROTHERS, LET YOUR VERY SOULS BE HIS...


WELCOME BACK, KIRIGI.
THERE ARE MANY YOU MUST KILL.
NEXT: THE WIDOW'S BITE

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Frank and Klaus,

I thought I had all the twists down.

I was wrong, but at least I was in good company. I wasn't the only one to think Coach Donahue killed John Phillips. Matt Murdock thought so, too. With the greatest plot twist of the decade, Frank Miller revealed that the Hogman had a pacemaker, thus the reason why Matt detected no jump in his heartbeat when he lied and why the dealer couldn't climb the ledge. Excellent twist.

But a few thousand curves weren't the only things that made "Good Guys Wear Red" a classic conclusion to the Angel Dust Saga. The explosive double-page spread on the second and third pages, the furious and frenzied pace of the story, Matt and Heather's conversation, Matt's entrance into the ominous looking dark gymnasium, and the deadly fight that followed, the chilling revelation on pages 14 and 15, and the triumph of justice, all behind a dynamic and forceful cover, helped make this issue stand out in a series that is noted for a masterpiece every issue.

The Expressionism in this story was also quite effective. The scene of the Nelson and Murdock offices on page 6 was poignant and impressive. The office building looked like a shining knight watching over a gloomy, desperate, needy city. It seemed symbolic of a strong and just protector, a defender against decay and doom, a guiding light in the all-encompassing darkness. In a city of despair and hopelessness, the tower was a symbol of justice, an image of might for right. Its exact opposite appeared on page 16, for the school looked like a curse bestowed on the neighborhood, a deadly and devilish monument to corruption. A young, desperate boy holding a gun at the bottom of the page brought out the obscenity of the picture, and the strife and pain that it stood for.

Although those panels were intimidating, the most startling scenes in the book were on pages 18 and 19, as Daredevil, the honest, law abiding and most Christian hero who is almost a saint, chose as the only means to stop the Punisher a gun—and consequently shot him in the shoulder. Bloody powerful and shocking. It was a remarkable switch, and it must have been very hard for DD to think about, much less do. It also must've been very difficult for the Punisher not to shoot Daredevil. Neither acted in regulatory fashion. I thought for sure the Punisher would drop DD. Both were put to a tremendous test, and both did what I did not expect them to.

I thought I had all the twists down.

Stu Krull
28 Kettle Creed Rd
Freehold, NJ 07728

Dear Frank and Klaus,

I don't believe it! Daredevil shot someone! Wow! I can't believe it! Am I hallucinating, or what?!?

Bob Durling
Mountain View Rd
North Walpole, NH 03609

Dear Frank and Klaus,

You guys just can't stop breaking rules, can you? Now Daredevil has used a gun. I'm now firmly convinced that nothing is sacrosanct in your quest for bigger sales. That makes you as ruthless as—Daredevil!

Peter Dubovsky
Rt 1 Box 62
Escanaba, MI 49829

Dear Frank and Klaus,

You people just ruined Daredevil. I don't understand you people! It started in DAREDEVIL #181 with Daredevil dropping Bullseye, and now he shoots the Punisher! You make me sick! DD used to be a great comic, but now he's getting mean (leave the mean stuff to WOLVERINE)! You've just ruined him, and for that I hate you!

Joseph DeAngeli
164 Harrison St
New Milford, NJ 07646

Dear Frank and Klaus,

I have finally recovered from my obsession of re-reading your issues enough to write a letter of comment and compliment. Needless to say, your work has transcended mere comic book entertainment, to the art of literature. Moreover, Marvel itself has hit a point unlike any I have ever seen in my years of collecting comics. Just when I had concluded that FF #238 was the best comic I had ever read, along came DAREDEVIL #179, then SPIDER-WOMAN #42, then AVENGERS #216, then FF #239, then DD #180, then FF #240, then SW #43, then Marvel Fanfare started—I guess you get the idea. Anyway, DAREDEVIL may not be the only book with current issues that will go down in history, but it is the best when it comes to low-key fantasy and surrealistic adventure.

Issue #184 was no exception. When the Punisher was introduced into the series, I thought he was just a replacement for the crippled Bullseye. After all, though their philosophies differ, their styles are similar, and the end result is always the same—they do not hesitate to kill. Obviously, I was wrong.

Another nice touch was Daredevil's shooting of the Punisher. This once again shows the subtle change in DD's beliefs, brought about by your scripting. First, there was DD's desire to leave Bullseye to die in DD #169. Then, there was DD's dropping of Bullseye in #181. And finally, DD actually shoots an enemy. It just goes to show that no matter how hard you try, there comes a point when a person, real or fiction, superhero or otherwise, can't stand it anymore.

Jay Barnett
627 W Laurel St
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Dear Frank and Klaus,

Once more the beast known as drug abuse has raised its ugly head for more victims. Thank you for this story.

Once again we are reminded of the destruction that the abuse of drugs brings to the human mind, body, and soul. It is sad that we need to be reminded. The problem with drugs, as with so many others, still exists. Thus, we need reminding.

You did not offer any answers to curing this particular brand of human misery. That's okay. If some kid—or adult—reads this story and decides to stop using, or not to even consider experimenting, as a result, you've done a great service.

Again, thank you.

Chris Hostetter
121 Bomberger Rd
Akron, PA 17501

Dear Frank and Klaus,

The best thing about this story is that it's the most realistic to fly across the pages in a long time. (Actually, realism is commonplace in DD, but this hits home in a better way.) The Punisher is undoubtedly a treasure. Here we have a neo-foe of DD's who shows how the darkest side of vigilance can get the best of one. I hope he's around in the future. I also hope Heather accepts Matt's proposal. It'll lighten up the frustration we've seen.

Now comes #184, as a pleaseant surprise under my door. "Good Guys Wear Red" is a good follow-up. More action scenes with the Punisher, more thwarting of his dumb plans. DD's acrobatics always make me want to jump out of my window, over my garage, into the next neighborhood and down an alley to beat up some crooks. Ah, inspiration. Maybe I should sign up for a fitness course. Anyway, it's good to see DD bend his rules just this once to punish the Punisher. I can't wait for his comeback.

Well, another thirty boring days ahead until #185. Worth it, I guess.

Leon Peter Zivkovic
224 E 26th St
Patterson, NJ 07514

Dear Frank and Klaus,

Thank you so very much for DAREDEVIL. I started reading it regularly about one year ago, and have rapidly become fascinated with both the storyline and your superb art. The story is going toward something very big, of that I am certain. You have managed to take a group of average, beat-'em-up-bad guy type comic characters, and breathe special life into them. I am especially fascinated with the way you have converted the Kingpin into a complex, in-control genius of a man. Daredevil himself is a subtle, down-to-earth HERO.

In DD #184 you bring a lot of comic issues together. Never before have I seen a superhero use a gun. Spider-Man uses webbing, the Hulk uses his fists, and DD himself uses a billy club. All essentially non-lethal. Until we see a man who loves the very essence of the law pick up a gun and actually use it. A bold, strong statement.

And the storyline you have introduced. Bogart, Lovecraft, Poe and Christie all rolled together into a very subtle, far-ranging tale, superbly held together by your fantastic art. In fact, the only complaint I have is that I don't think it's valid anymore to call DAREDEVIL a "comic". It's evolved into the next step, adult fiction of the highest order. Call it what you will, but until Daredevil sprouts wings, make mine MARVEL!

T. Alan Beek
Celina, Ohio

NEXT ISSUE: Things get worse.